

Gateway Pacific Terminal - Public Opinion Summary, January 2015

In virtually every poll that has been conducted in the Northwest over the last several years, either the majority of those surveyed or a strong plurality supported the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, a multi-commodity export terminal in the northwest corner of Washington State. Polls have also found support for increased export capacity, a robust rail system and infrastructure improvements, and concerns about broad environmental reviews that set a precedent.

As noted below, one of the polls that has consistently found support for the proposed facilities comes from EarthFix, a program that is owned by National Public Radio. Every one of the last three years, EarthFix found in its independent poll that more of the respondents were supportive of the export proposals than those who were opposed. A recent Elway poll confirms this.

More highlights below (in order by date of poll):

- **Elway Research, Inc. Poll December 2014**

- 502 Washington voters were asked:
“There is a proposal to build a shipping terminal in the existing industrial port area north of Bellingham. This facility would enable US producers of coal, wheat and other products in northern states to efficiently export their products to Asian markets. If this port facility meets federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, should it be built? Or are there other considerations that should prevent it from being built?”
- **51% responded SHOULD BE BUILT**
- 37% responded that OTHER CONSIDERATIONS should prevent it
- 13% were undecided or had no opinion

- **KUOW EarthFix Poll June 2014**

- A third region-wide poll for Earthfix (a collaboration of Pacific Northwest public radio stations) found a plurality of residents throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho support coal transportation through the Northwest for export to Asian markets. Of the 1,200 Northwest citizens polled, **47% are in favor of new export facilities and 34% are opposed.**
(Poll Conducted by DHM Research (Davis, Hibbitts, & Midghall, Inc.)

- **Elway Research, Inc. Poll April 2014**

- When 504 Washington voters were asked, “In your opinion, does Washington state have a responsibility to support interstate commerce by serving as a gateway to export products from other states? Or should Washington only be concerned with exporting its own products?” they responded--
- **67% WA has responsibility to support other states**
- **23% WA should only be concerned about own products**
- **10% no opinion**

- **KUOW EarthFix Poll June 2013**

- A second region-wide poll for Earthfix (a collaboration of Pacific Northwest public radio stations) found a plurality of residents throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho support coal transportation through the Northwest for export to Asian markets. Of the 483 Northwest citizens polled, **47% are in favor of new export facilities and 37% are opposed.**
(Poll Conducted by DHM Research (Davis, Hibbitts, & Midghall, Inc.)

- **Elway Research, Inc. Poll January 2013**

- A non-partisan poll conducted by Elway Research, Inc., confirms that Washington voters solidly support building export terminals, such as GPT. This support is confirmed by the fact that **50 percent of respondents to the Elway Poll said they support export facilities** that will ship coal from Wyoming and Montana to Asia.

- **Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports Poll January 2013**

- 77 percent support evaluating proposed export facilities independently (versus 16 percent who prefer a combined regional review of all proposed facilities)
- **74 percent support additional rail and barge traffic for the projects**, viewing it as crucial to Washington’s export economy and a sign of economic growth (versus 15 percent who say train and barge traffic should not increase)
(Moore Information, Inc.)

- **Montana Chamber of Commerce Poll December 2012:**

- **Poll finds 71% of Montana voters support more coal development**

- **Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports Poll November 2012**

- **Poll shows 54.5% of Oregon voters and 56.6% of Washington State voters support the export of coal**
(Poll Conducted by Gallatin Public Affairs)

- **KUOW EarthFix Poll June 2012**

- A region-wide poll for Earthfix (a collaboration of Pacific Northwest public radio stations) found a majority of residents throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho support coal transportation through the Northwest for export to Asian markets. Of the 1,200 Northwest citizens polled, **55% are in favor of new coal exporting facilities.**
(Poll Conducted by DHM Research (Davis, Hibbitts, & Midghall, Inc.)

- **Kiley & Company Poll “A Survey of Voters in Whatcom and Skagit Counties” May 24, 2012** (polled 401 voters in Whatcom County and 200 in Skagit County)

- A Northwest Washington poll conducted in May 2012 found that a clear majority of Whatcom and Skagit County voters support the Gateway Pacific Terminal. In each county, **59% favor the project.**